

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/CH:RSSTEVEN
APPROVED BY ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY
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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 107424

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, ETRD, EAGR, CI

SUBJECT:CCC CREDIT FOR CHILE

REFERENCE: STATE 105103

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO
ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS ON \$38 MILLION CCC CREDIT FOR CHILE
ANNOUNCED APRIL 24 BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. NO
QUESTION HAS BEEN ASKED AS OF NOON BRIEFING APRIL 26, NOR
HAS THERE BEEN ANY PRESS NOTICE TAKEN OF ANNOUNCEMENT TO
DATE.

2. QUOTE:

ONLY IF ASKED

Q. THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCED APRIL 24 A
\$38 MILLION CCC CREDIT FOR CHILE. WHAT IS THE CREDIT
FOR, AND DOES IT SIGNIFY A CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARD
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CHILE?

A. THE CCC CREDITS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY OF \$35 MILLION
FOR GRAIN AND \$3 MILLION FOR BEEF CATTLE WERE EXTENDED TO
PRIVATE GROUPS IN CHILE, NOT TO THE GOVERNMENT. CCC
CREDITS ARE ESSENTIALLY COMMERCIAL AND NOT PART OF US
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THE CCC PROGRAM IS RUN BY

THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES
ADVICE TO AGRICULTURE ON THE FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF
PROPOSED CREDITS.

ONLY IF ASKED

Q. DOES THE FACT THAT CCC CREDIT FOR CHILE WAS DEFERRED
EARLIER AND HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED MEAN THAT US-CHILEAN
RELATIONS ARE IMPROVING?

A. THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION IN DECIDING ON CCC CREDITS
IS THE COMMERCIAL NEEDS OF US FARMER. HOWEVER, HUMAN
RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. WE HAVE
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CERTAIN STEPS TAKEN RECENTLY BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF CHILE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO IMPROVEMENT OF
THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE. CONTINUED IMPROVE-
MENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WOULD LEAD TO OVERALL
IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH CHILE. WHILE NOTING THE
IMPROVEMENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED, WE REMAIN CONCERNED
ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE, INCLUDING THE
ABSENCE OF POLITICAL LIBERTIES.

ONLY IF ASKED

Q. WILL THE US NOW BEGIN TO APPROVE BILATERAL OR MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO CHILE?
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A. NO BILATERAL ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS UNDER
CONSIDERATION AT THIS TIME.

ONLY IF ASKED

Q. WILL THE US NOW BEGIN TO APPROVE OTHER CREDITS FOR
CHILE?

A. WE WILL EXAMINE SUCH CASES AS THEY ARISE. END QUOTE.

3. WE WILL INFORM YOU IF QUESTION DOES ARISE OR IF THERE
IS OTHER SIGNIFICANT REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT. VANCE

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